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Making sense of the world



THE WEEK

Junior

THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
**CURIOUS
KIDS**

SUSPENSE IN THE SKY

Scientists track an asteroid's path through space **p14**

DID YOU KNOW?

- The space rock is more than 4 billion years old.
- It is currently about 30 million miles away from Earth.
- Experts say it has a very low chance of hitting our planet.





This week's big news



DID YOU KNOW?

Ukraine has a population of nearly 31 million people, while the population of Russia is about 145 million.

From left to right: António Costa, Volodymyr Zelensky, and Ursula von der Leyen

What is the EU?



The European Union (EU) was created in 1993 and has its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium (above). The EU is a group of countries that work together for freedom, peace, democracy, human rights, and economic stability. Rather than having their own currency, most member nations use a common one called the euro.

US relationship with Europe in flux

On March 6, European leaders held an urgent meeting in response to statements made by US President Donald Trump about US foreign policy. These included Trump's announcement that he was withdrawing US support for Ukraine, which is fighting a war with Russia.

What happened?

The summit was held in Brussels, Belgium, and included leaders of the 27 member nations of the European Union (EU, see box above). Also present were Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission (a branch of the EU), and António Costa, president of the European Council (another branch of the EU). Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, also attended the meeting. Ukraine is not a member of the EU but would like to be admitted.

Why did they meet?

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, the US, Canada, and many European nations have come to Ukraine's aid. They have given Ukraine \$280 billion in money, weapons, tanks, and supplies to help the country defend itself against Russia, a much bigger nation with more resources. About 40% of that support came from the US. On March 3, however, Trump paused delivery of US aid to Ukraine. He said he did it to pressure Zelensky to accept a

peace agreement the US was trying to negotiate between Ukraine and Russia. Zelensky pushed back, saying the agreement favored Russia. Trump also met with Russia about ending the fighting but did not include Ukraine in the meeting, leading people to believe that he is supporting Russia. This is a serious concern for European leaders because they believe that Russia wants to take over more of the continent, not just Ukraine.

Trump has also threatened to end an 80-year-old agreement that says the US will help defend its allies in Europe, which would leave them vulnerable to aggression from Russia and other countries. He said he will do this unless European nations spend more money to support Ukraine and build up their own military defense systems.

"If they don't pay, I'm not going to defend them," Trump said on March 6. EU leaders and Zelensky met in Brussels to discuss solutions.

What did they decide?

At the meeting, the EU agreed on a five-point plan to allocate about \$862 billion to help Ukraine and strengthen their own militaries. The EU agreement also mandated that Ukraine must be part of any peace talks. "There can be no negotiations on Ukraine without Ukraine," the agreement said. It also stated that Europe must

be involved in planning an end to the conflict. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Russia's closest ally in Europe, was the only EU leader who did not sign the statement.

What did the leaders say?

EU leaders described the meeting as a turning point. "Today history is being written," von der Leyen told reporters after the summit. The EU is "determined to ensure Europe's security and to act with the scale, the speed, and the resolve that this situation demands. We are determined to invest more, to invest better, and to invest faster together," she said. Costa stated, "Our efforts to strengthen European defense will also benefit Ukraine. Because Ukraine's security is at the core of Europe's security." Zelensky said, "We are very thankful that we are not alone."

What will happen next?

As *The Week Junior* went to press on March 11, US and Ukrainian officials were meeting in Saudi Arabia to discuss ending the war. As a result of the meeting, the US announced that it was restarting aid to Ukraine. In turn, Ukraine agreed to support a proposal by the US for a 30-day ceasefire with Russia. Next, the agreement will be presented to Russia for its approval. The news came hours after Ukraine launched a drone attack on Moscow, Russia's capital city. Meanwhile, EU nations will work to put the defense spending plan into action.



The EU flag



World's largest iceberg is stuck

The largest and oldest iceberg in the world has gotten stuck in shallow waters off the coast of South America. For several months the iceberg, called A23a, had been traveling from Antarctica toward South Georgia island in the South Atlantic Ocean. Experts were worried that it could slam into the island and harm the millions of penguins and seals that live there, but instead it got held up about 50 miles from shore.

A23a covers more than 1,300 square miles, making it twice the size of Houston, Texas. In 1986, it broke off from Antarctica's Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf and spent the next 30 years in the Weddell Sea. In 2020, A23a began drifting north. Last year, it got caught in a column of rotating water for several months before heading for South Georgia in mid-February.

Scientists now predict the iceberg will eventually break into smaller pieces and melt. If it melts, wildlife would benefit from the rich nutrients in the ice. If it breaks up, commercial ships may have to be rerouted to avoid the large chunks.



The iceberg

The opening ceremony of the 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games



WOW!
Since 1968, more than 3.6 million athletes with intellectual disabilities have participated in Special Olympics events.

Special Olympics Winter Games begin

The Special Olympics World Winter Games kicked off in Turin, Italy, on March 8, with an opening ceremony at Inalpi Arena. More than 1,500 athletes from 101 countries and territories are competing in eight sports, including figure skating, speed skating, alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowboarding.

The Special Olympics are the world's largest sports and humanitarian event and provide year-round training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. They were established by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a sister of John F. Kennedy, the 35th US President. Their sister Rosemary had learning disabilities and few chances to participate in sports.

The first Games were held in Chicago in the summer of 1968. Today, the Special Olympics are held every two years, alternating between winter

and summer. The last Winter Games, scheduled for 2020, were canceled because of Covid-19.

At the opening ceremony, the "Flame of Hope" was lit and competitors joined the Parade of Athletes. "I know that each one of you has carried a spark of the flame inside you, preparing and training, day after day," Patrizia Sandretto Rebaudengo, president of the 2025 Special Olympics World Games, told athletes in her welcome address. "You are the 'Flame of Hope.'"

Athletes from the US include Annie Mulligan of Wisconsin, who will compete in snowshoeing; Nick Mills of South Dakota, an alpine skier; and Christi Theron, a cross-country skier from Delaware. When *The Week Junior* went to press, the US had won seven snowboarding medals, including two gold. Some of the Games, which end on March 15, will be broadcast on ESPN+.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A COOL IDEA

Ben & Jerry's has teamed up with Rivian, an electric vehicle company, to roll out electric "scoop trucks." It's "an ice cream dream come true," said a spokesperson for Ben & Jerry's, which has a strong focus on sustainability.



A scoop truck



Marley

AN ARTISTIC PENGUIN

A northern rockhopper penguin has gone viral for the happy way she makes art with her feet. Marley, who lives at an aquarium in Texas, steps in nontoxic paint and walk across a canvas. When she's done, she wags her tail and squawks. "Marley has always been all in," a keeper said.

MAKING PROM POSSIBLE

About 800 high school seniors who were affected by the wildfires in Southern California got good news from actor Steve Carell. He announced in a YouTube video that a nonprofit he works with, Alice's Kids, is paying for their prom tickets. "Have fun," said Carell, who voices Gru in the *Despicable Me* movies.



Steve Carell



National news

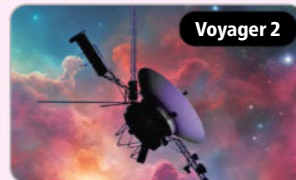
WOW!

The Hubble Space Telescope has collected data on 108 million astronomical objects.



A rendering of the Hubble in orbit

Voyager 1 and Voyager 2



Voyager 2

NASA has found a way to extend the life of Voyager 1 and Voyager 2, twin interstellar probes that were launched in 1977. They are the only spacecraft to have traveled beyond our solar system. To allow them to gather data for at least another year, one of their electric instruments will be switched off to conserve power.

Big milestone for NASA telescope

NASA, the US space agency, is celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope's launch into orbit. As one of the largest and most powerful telescopes ever sent into space, the Hubble has provided scientists with a more complete understanding of the universe.

What is the Hubble?

Named after US astronomer Edwin Hubble, the telescope was launched on board the space shuttle Discovery from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on April 24, 1990. The telescope is about the size of a school bus and weighs about 27,000 pounds. The Hubble's two main camera systems capture light, including infrared and ultraviolet light, which the human eye can't see. Two solar panels draw energy from the Sun to power the

Hubble, which orbits about 320 miles away from Earth and circles the globe every 95 minutes.

What has the Hubble accomplished?

More than 21,000 scientific papers have been published based on what the Hubble has observed. Its data has been used to help experts estimate that the universe is about 13.8 billion years old and confirm the existence of supermassive black holes, which are thousands of times larger than the Sun and located at the center of nearly every galaxy in our universe. The Hubble has also captured some of the most stunning images of cosmic dust and gas being formed into young stars. The technology that powers the Hubble has also inspired new technology on Earth, including some of the batteries we use today.

How is the anniversary being observed?

NASA will celebrate the milestone throughout 2025 with special events and initiatives, including the release of historic Hubble images, a computer game called Hubble's Cosmic Adventure, and "Hubble's Night Sky Challenge," a stargazing challenge for amateur astronomers. Science centers and museums across the US will also host "star parties" for visitors. Find out more at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-NASAHubble.

What will happen next?

The Hubble's altitude in orbit is slowly decreasing, due to a natural phenomenon called atmospheric drag. But NASA expects the Hubble will continue to operate for at least five more years and possibly longer before it has to be decommissioned.



WORD OF THE WEEK

CONCERT

A concert is a musical event put on by one or more performers in public. The word comes from the Italian *concertare*, meaning to "unite" or to "harmonize." The word "concerto," a performance by one or more artists accompanied by an orchestra, is from the same family.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

March 26, 1945

Battle of Iwo Jima ends with US victory

On March 26, 1945, the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II (1939–1945) ended with a US victory. US troops had been fighting against the Imperial Japanese Army for five weeks on the island of Iwo Jima in the Pacific Ocean. A photo by Joe Rosenthal of US soldiers raising the American flag there won a Pulitzer Prize (top journalism award) and inspired the Marine Corps War Memorial in Virginia.



The Marine Corps War Memorial



A view of the Great Smoky Mountains

Attendance rises at US parks

A record 331.9 million people visited a US national park in 2024, the National Park Service reported. That is a 2% increase from 2023 and surpasses the previous high of 330.9 million visitors in 2016. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, in North Carolina and Tennessee, had the most visitors—12.1 million—followed by Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona and Zion National Park in Utah, with 4.9 million visitors each.



The three eaglets

Eaglets hatched in California

Bald eagle mates Jackie and Shadow—who have been famously viewed on a live cam since 2018 in Big Bear, California—have become the parents of three newborn eagles. The first eaglets were hatched on March 3 and 4, and a third one emerged from its shell on March 8. Jackie and Shadow can be seen feeding and caring for the chicks on the nest camera at friendsofbigbearvalley.org.



Two of the stamps

New Revolutionary War stamps

To mark the 250th anniversary of the start of the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783), the US Postal Service is releasing 15 Forever stamps that depict turning points in the conflict. The stamps feature watercolor paintings of five major battles, including the Battles of Lexington and Concord and the Battle of Bunker Hill, along with photographs of the sites.



Women are being recognized with events, art exhibits, and a commemorative coin.

DID YOU KNOW?
The theme of the first Women's History Month in 1987 was "Generations of Courage, Compassion, and Conviction."



Women's History Month is celebrated

The US has been observing Women's History Month throughout March. It is a time to remember and pay tribute to the role women have played in shaping the history and culture of the US.

The nationwide recognition of women stems from Women's History Week, which began in Sonoma County, California, in 1978. The week centered on March 8, which had already been named International Women's Day. Sonoma County's decision inspired a push for a National Women's History Week, which was declared by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. Congress (the branch of government that makes laws) officially designated March as Women's History Month in 1987.

This year's theme, "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations," celebrates women who have strengthened their communities through education, mentorship, and advocacy. Numerous events are taking place across the US to showcase the theme.

On March 1, the Sonoma State Historic Park hosted an event to honor women who have made a difference in California. Western Illinois University in Macomb will host a panel on March 19 about women's impact on global education.

In Washington, DC, the National Gallery of Art has opened the exhibit *Elizabeth Catlett: A Black Revolutionary Artist*, with more than 150 works by the 20th-century sculptor and printmaker. The Smithsonian American Art Museum is featuring *Pattern and Paradox: The Quilts of Amish Women*, which examines how quilting helped women create community.

The National Women's History Museum is hosting an awards gala on March 20. Honorees include activist and educator Opal Lee, who helped make Juneteenth, which marks the end of slavery in the US, a federal holiday. On March 24, the American Women Quarters Program will release a new coin featuring Juliette Gordon Low (1860–1927) to celebrate her work as the founder of the Girl Scouts of the USA.



Educator and activist Opal Lee

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Opossum leads police on 'slow-speed pursuit' across California bridge" UPI





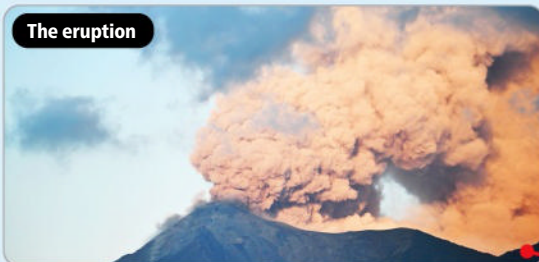
Around the world



Mark Carney
speaks after
his win.

Canada **New prime minister chosen**

On March 9, Mark Carney, a former leader of the central Bank of Canada, was selected to become the country's next prime minister. The ruling Liberal Party held an internal race to replace Justin Trudeau, who resigned in January, and Carney received nearly 86% of the votes. Since he was not elected by the public, Carney is expected to call a national election in which his party will compete against three other parties.



The eruption

Guatemala City, Guatemala **Volcano of Fire erupts**

About 1,000 residents were evacuated and another 30,000 were said to be at risk after the Volcán de Fuego (Volcano of Fire) erupted near Guatemala's capital during the night of March 9. One of the most active volcanoes on Earth, the Volcano of Fire killed about 200 people in a previous eruption in 2018. This time, it spewed lava, ash, and rocks for less than 24 hours. No injuries were reported, and residents have been allowed to return home.



Some roads will
be renamed.

Kampala, Uganda **Landmarks' names to be changed**

A court has ruled that certain streets and monuments in Uganda's capital, Kampala, should be renamed or removed. More than 5,800 people signed a petition in 2020 asking the government to remove landmarks that honored British colonialists, who took control of Uganda from 1894 until 1962. New names will be chosen that represent Ugandan culture.

Trinidad and Tobago **Recycling Carnival costumes**

A local organization called Carnicycle is working to make Trinidad and Tobago Carnival, a joyful annual celebration, more eco-friendly. The event produces tons of waste each year, so the group has started a recycling program to collect discarded costumes. They remove materials like feathers and beads, then resell the costumes to be used again.



A Carnicycle
workshop



Limburg, the Netherlands **Stolen artwork found**

A painting that was stolen from Poland's Gdańsk Museum in 1974 has now been located. *Woman Carrying the Embers* was painted in the 17th century by Pieter Brueghel the Younger. Last year, it was spotted in an exhibition at the Gouda Museum in the Netherlands and an art detective was called to investigate. The painting was officially identified, and authorities are working to return it to Poland.



The painting

GETTY IMAGES (6); ALAMY (2); SHUTTERSTOCK; COURTESY OF DANIEL MCLATCHIE

Around the world



Mailboxes will be removed.



Denmark Letter delivery set to end

Denmark's postal service, PostNord, has announced that it will stop all letter deliveries by the end of 2025. PostNord says the number of letters sent in the country has decreased by 90% since 2000. The service will still deliver packages, but it will start removing about 1,500 mailboxes throughout Denmark this summer.



Airport staff on strike



Germany Airport strikes affect travel

On March 10, hundreds of flights were canceled as a result of a workers' strike at 13 airports in Germany. Employees walked out for 24 hours, refusing to work as a form of protest. Verdi, the labor union that arranged the strike, demanded an 8% pay increase for all workers. When *The Week Junior* went to press, negotiations over the pay of some workers were set to begin on March 14.



Latakia



Latakia, Syria Military operation concludes

On March 10, Syria's government announced the end of a temporary military operation in the country. Four days earlier, near the city of Latakia, violence had broken out between government forces and armed fighters supporting Bashar al-Assad, Syria's former president who was removed from power in 2024. More than 1,000 people were estimated to have died in the fighting during the operation.



A protest



Kakuma, Kenya Protests over food supplies

Protests broke out after the UN World Food Program announced that it was reducing food supplies at a camp that houses 300,000 refugees (people forced to flee their home to escape danger). Due to cuts in foreign aid by the US and UK, the amount of food will be 40% of the basic minimum ration. At least four refugees and one official were injured as protesters clashed with police.



Jakarta, Indonesia Rain causes floods

Rescue teams and volunteers have been working together to help those affected by flooding in the capital, Jakarta, and surrounding areas. The flooding occurred because heavy rainfall caused the Ciliwung River to burst its banks. More than 2,200 people have had to leave their homes. Authorities have been using a method called cloud seeding, which manipulates the weather, to move rainfall away from the worst-hit areas.



Homes have been evacuated.



The big debate

Should phones be banned at concerts?

Some people say the devices are ruining live performances, but others disagree.

What you need to know

- Many major artists including Alicia Keys, Bob Dylan, Mitski, and Bruno Mars have banned phones at their shows in the past.
- Concertgoers are often asked to seal their phones in locked pouches that can only be unlocked after the show.
- Some artists and venues, however, make exceptions. The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, for example, allows photography without flash during moments of applause but not during the performance itself.



FIRST PHOTOS

In November 2002, the Sanyo SCP-5300 became the first cell phone with a built-in camera available in the U.S.

Taylor Swift's Eras Tour sent fans into a frenzy. People traveled thousands of miles—and spent thousands of dollars—to witness it live, and the internet was flooded with advice on how to capture that perfect photo or video of Taylor performing. In fact, her standalone show at Wembley Stadium in the UK set a record for the most mobile data used at the venue, with Swifties posting snippets from the show online. Overall, there were more than 1.9 million videos of the tour on TikTok. Some people say this is just our new reality, but others feel that we should keep our phones in our pockets or bags. What do you think? Should phones be banned at concerts?

Yes—they're disrespectful

Artists put so much time and effort into their performances. It's only right that we value their art, give them our full attention, and put our phones away when they're onstage. Phones buzz and ping, which is distracting for performers and other audience members. And holding up our phones obstructs people's view and spoils their experience, which isn't nice. They paid for their ticket too! Besides, a live performance is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and we get enough screen time as it is. As Beyoncé herself once told fans at a concert, "Y'all gotta put the camera phones down for one second and actually enjoy this moment."

No—they actually help the artist

It's rare to get to see an artist or band perform live, and ticket prices are sky-high these days, so people really want to remember the experience. Taking a few photos or videos is a good way to do that. It's OK to use our phones at a concert as long as we're putting them on silent mode, turning off the flash, and not holding them up high. Posting concert photos or videos online might actually even help artists gain more fans, especially if they're up-and-coming performers. And sometimes the audience raises their phones in unison with their lights turned on. That's a special, communal moment for the performer and their fans.

YES

Three reasons phones should be banned at concerts

- 1 We should respect the artists who put a lot of effort into their performance. We can live without a phone for a couple of hours.
- 2 It's not right to disturb other people who are there to enjoy the performance.
- 3 A live show is a special experience. When we record moments on our phones, we miss out on truly enjoying them.

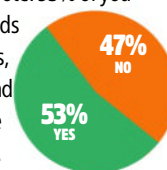
NO

Three reasons phones should not be banned at concerts

- 1 It's not every day that we get to see our favorite artists perform live, and photos or videos can become keepsakes.
- 2 There are plenty of ways to use your phone so it doesn't distract other people.
- 3 It's magical when everyone in the audience turns on their phone lights, raises them in the air, and shares a special moment.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if children should use skincare products. It was a close vote: 53% of you said yes to kids using creams, cleansers, and scrubs, while 47% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think phones should be banned at concerts or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Achieving a football first

Coach Autumn Lockwood is breaking barriers for women in sports.

When the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Kansas City Chiefs last month in the National Football League's biggest game, Autumn Lockwood made history. As the associate performance coach for the Eagles, she became the first Black female coach to win a Super Bowl.

Lockwood, age 29, grew up in Media, Pennsylvania, as the daughter of a college football coach. She initially planned to pursue law enforcement, but her upbringing led her to strength coaching.

After earning a master's degree in psychology and sports management, Lockwood gained experience as an intern with the Atlanta Falcons. She also held positions at the college level, including director of sports performance at the University of Houston.

Lockwood joined the Eagles in 2022. In her current role, she designs training programs to help players avoid injuries and stay in shape physically and mentally. In 2023, when the Eagles lost to the Chiefs in the Super Bowl, Lockwood became the first Black woman—and fourth woman ever—to coach in the league's biggest game.

Following the 2025 Super Bowl win, Lockwood acknowledged other women on the Eagles staff who helped the team succeed. "I'm beyond grateful to be surrounded by this incredibly inspiring group of women," she said.

Speaking on a sports podcast last summer, she said success comes down to working hard and showing up. "I'm going to do everything I can to help this team... [build] a championship culture," she said.



Celebrating at the 2025 Super Bowl



Autumn Lockwood

TEAM ORIGIN

The Philadelphia Eagles were founded in 1933 and named after a symbol of US economic recovery during the Great Depression (1929–1941).

A memory master

Vishvaa Rajakumar, a 20-year-old college student from India, won the 2025 Memory League World Championship. In this online competition, participants must memorize complex sequences of numbers, images, and words in seconds. Rajakumar's fastest time was memorizing 80 digits in 13.5 seconds. He uses a method called "memory palace," visualizing a house with information linked to different rooms to recall later. After college, he plans to become a memory trainer and create an institute in India.



Vishvaa Rajakumar

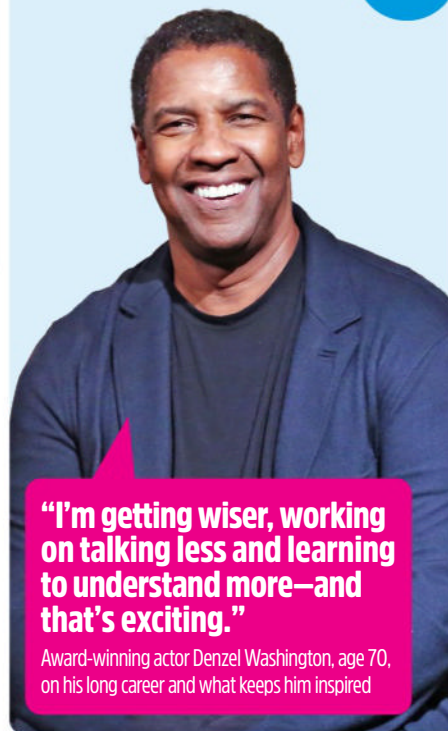


Ashley Boudier

Star dancer retires

Ashley Boudier, principal dancer at the New York City Ballet (NYCB), has retired after 25 years with the prestigious dance company. Boudier, age 41, trained as a child at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet before attending the School of American Ballet. For her final performance, she danced the 20th-century ballet *Firebird*, which launched her NYCB career. At age 17, she stepped into the title role with only a few hours to prepare, after both principal dancers were injured. Her next role will be focusing on her nonprofit, Ashley Boudier Arts, which runs dance workshops and festivals.

OVERHEARD



"I'm getting wiser, working on talking less and learning to understand more—and that's exciting."

Award-winning actor Denzel Washington, age 70, on his long career and what keeps him inspired



Animals and the environment



A humpback whale

PSST!
Humpback whale calves “whisper” to their mothers with quiet grunts and squeaks.

For friendly ears only

Baleen whales, like humpbacks, rely on singing to attract mates. But if orcas hear their songs, these predatory “killer whales” can find the singer and attack. A scientist discovered that some species, such as Bryde’s whales (below), stay safe by calling at deep, low frequencies that orcas can’t hear.



Some whales sing like humans speak

Humpback whale songs follow patterns that are similar to human language, according to new studies. This suggests that traits found throughout the animal kingdom may have guided the development of human speech.

Male humpback whales produce sounds in a complex sequence, known as a song. A song can be up to 30 minutes long and may be repeated for hours. Scientists aren’t sure exactly why humpbacks sing, but it seems to help them attract mates. As with human language, the whales’ songs are culturally transmitted, meaning they are learned from others.

An international team of scientists studied recordings collected over eight years near the

island of New Caledonia in the Pacific Ocean. Because humpback whale songs are made up of various sounds, such as moans, grunts, and squeaks, the scientists created codes to describe different combinations of sounds. By figuring

out which sounds often occurred together, they could identify combinations in whale songs that served a purpose similar to words in human speech.

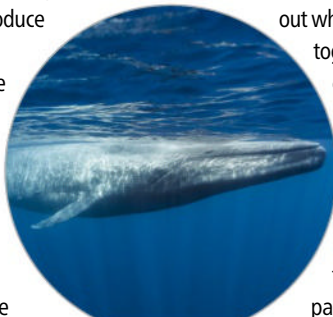
When the researchers analyzed the whale songs using this method, they found that the songs followed a pattern, called Zipf’s law of

frequency, that is also found in human language. Zipf’s law says that the most common word in a language is used twice as much as the second most common

word, three times as much as the third most common word, and so on. For example, in English, the word “the” is used twice as often as “of” and three times as often as “and.”

“This made us realize that we’d uncovered a deep commonality between these two species, separated by tens of millions of years of evolution,” Simon Kirby, a University of Edinburgh researcher who worked on the study, told *New Scientist*.

Meanwhile, a separate study from Stony Brook University in New York revealed additional similarities between people and whales. The research found that the songs of humpbacks and blue whales use short words more often than longer ones, as is the case with human language. “Taken together, our studies suggest that humpback whale song has evolved to be more efficient and easier to learn,” said the study’s author, Mason Youngblood.



A blue whale



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Gypsum Hills, Kansas

Gypsum Hills is a scenic region of rusty red hills, canyons, and mesas (flat-topped elevations) in the south-central part of Kansas, along the state’s border with Oklahoma. The hills, also known as the Red Hills, get their name from large natural deposits of a mineral called gypsum in the area. Winding dirt roads connect the land with more than 100 caves and sinkholes. Wild cattle wander freely, and deer, pheasant, turkey, quail, bobcats, porcupines, and raccoons are some of the wildlife spotted roaming the prairies that lie between the hills.



A pheasant



TAKE A BREATH

Some salamander species can take in oxygen through their skin.



A wandering salamander

The secrets of salamander toes

Did you know there's a species of salamander that skydives? Although wandering salamanders don't have wings, they can glide over treetops. The creatures are able to grab onto and let go of tree branches as they move. Researchers from Washington State University have now discovered that the secret to the animals' super grip lies in the blood in their toes.

The team was studying the behavior of wandering salamanders and noticed that when they wanted to take a step forward, blood rushed to fill the ends of

their toes. Once the salamanders put their feet down on a surface, the blood in their toes flowed back out. The movement of the blood changed the stiffness of the salamanders' toes, which the scientists think affects their grip.

Christian Brown, who led the study, said the research could be useful for developing robotic parts that can grip onto surfaces. He also said that understanding salamander toes could lead to breakthroughs in gadgets that need to be able to attach to objects.

Animal of the week

Silvered langur



A rare baby silvered langur has made its first appearance at the Bronx Zoo in New York. The male monkey, who was born in November and does not have a name yet, is one of more than 100 bred at the zoo over the past 40 years.

- **LIFE SPAN:** About 20 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia
- **SIZE:** About 20 inches long, 12.6 to 14.5 pounds
- **DIET:** Leaves, buds, fruit, seeds, flowers
- **FUN FACT:** At birth, silvered langurs are orange. Their fur begins to turn silver after a few months.



Good week / Bad week



Black-footed ferrets

Researchers are using special tracking collars to study black-footed ferrets, which are endangered mammals that live mostly underground. The new data on their lives and behavior will help experts learn how to support the species' survival.



Olive ridley sea turtles

More than 1,100 dead olive ridley sea turtles washed ashore along the southern coast of India. An official report has not been released, but early reports indicate that some of the turtles may have died after getting caught in fishing boat nets.

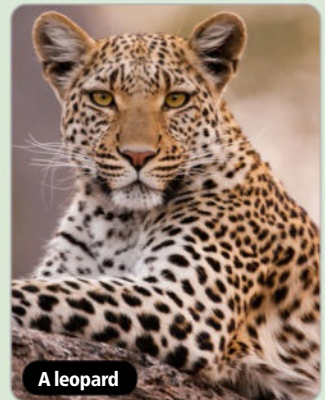


"Why do all leopards have unique spots?"

Mallory, 8, Texas

Ron Magill
Wildlife expert,
Zoo Miami

The main purpose of a leopard's spots is camouflage. They help the leopard blend into the natural spots of light and dark in its environment to sneak up on prey. No two leopards have the exact same spots, and those unique spots distinguish individuals and help leopards identify each other.



A leopard

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about Zoo Miami at zoomiami.org.



An actress who blazed

Anna May Wong was Hollywood's first Chinese American movie star.

As an American actress of Chinese descent in the early days of film, Anna May Wong broke barriers for herself and those who came after her.

Early life

Anna May Wong was born on January 3, 1905, in Los Angeles, California. She was given two names: Wong Liu Tsong, a Chinese name that means "frosted yellow willows," and an English name, Anna May.

Her family lived behind the laundry shop they ran. It was a difficult time due to widespread racial discrimination. From a young age, Wong was fascinated by films. She used her pocket money to go to the cinema and, by age 9, decided she wanted to become a movie star. She changed her name to Anna May Wong, a combination of her Chinese and English names. She visited movie shoots in Chinatown and reenacted the scenes at home. At age 14, she was cast as an extra in *The Red Lantern*, the first of many roles to come.



At age 2



In *The Toll of the Sea*

Achieving fame

Wong began acting full-time at age 16. She was cast in films—but not for the parts she wanted. Asian leading roles went to white actors, while she played passive or villainous characters that reinforced racial stereotypes. She had her first film credit in 1921 for the silent movie *Bits of Life* and her first leading role in *The Toll of the Sea* in 1922. Her part in the 1924 film *The Thief of Bagdad*, with megastar Douglas Fairbanks, made her famous but was still a stereotype. Frustrated, she moved to Europe in 1928 and became a global star in Paris, Berlin, and London. In 1931, she returned to the U.S.

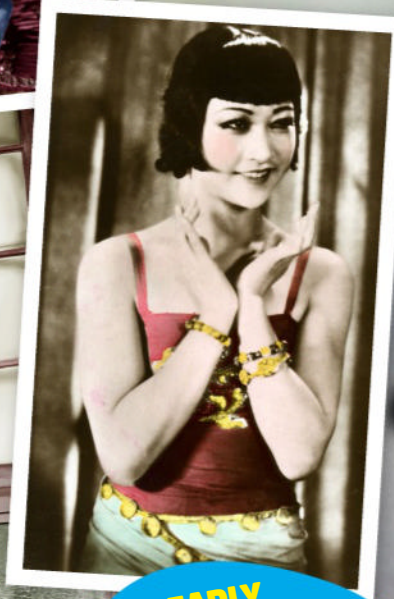


DID YOU KNOW?

After performing in many silent films, Anna May Wong acted in her first talking film, *The Flame of Love*, in 1930.



Anna May Wong, shown here in movie studio shots, grew up in awe of movies filmed near her Los Angeles home. She got "as close to the cameras as I dared."



EARLY INFLUENCER

In addition to being known for her acting, Anna May Wong was a fashion icon and helped make bangs popular as a hairstyle.

3 ways she made history

Throughout her career as an actress, Anna May Wong broke several barriers in film and television. Here are a few of them.



Leading TV role

In 1951, Wong became the first Asian American to be cast in a lead role in a US television program. In the mystery show *The Gallery of Madame Liu-Tsong*, she played a detective and an art gallery owner in a part written specifically for her.





trails on screen



PICTURE PERFECT
The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery collection includes more than 10 portraits of Anna May Wong.



A 1937 movie poster

Home again

Back in America, Wong found that little had changed. She hoped to land a lead role in *The Good Earth*, a film adaptation of a book about Chinese farmers, but a white woman was cast instead. Disappointed and motivated to learn more about her heritage and culture, she made her first visit to China in 1936. She stayed for a year and made a documentary about her experience, calling it the "most meaningful" trip she had made. When she returned to the US, Paramount Pictures promised her better roles and cast her in the 1937 movie *Daughter of Shanghai*, the first film to feature Asian American actors in lead romantic roles.



In Hollywood

Enduring legacy

In the mid-1940s, Wong took a break from acting to join the effort to provide humanitarian relief for people in need during the Second Sino-Japanese War in China (1937–1945). She auctioned some of her movie costumes to raise money. She went on to appear in numerous TV shows in the 1950s and was cast in the hit musical *Flower Drum Song*. But she died suddenly in 1961 at age 56, before production began. Throughout her life, she acted in more than 60 films, a Broadway show, and numerous plays. Wong is now remembered for her fight for fair representation in Hollywood, and for inspiring future generations of Asian American actors.

Hollywood star

She was also the first Asian American woman to be honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, California. She received the star in 1960, the year before she died, and it can be seen at 1708 Vine Street.



US quarter

A glamorous depiction of Wong appears on a US quarter released in 2022, when she became the first Asian American to be shown on the nation's currency. The coin is part of the American Women Quarters Program.



GETTING CLOSER

Asteroids that get within 30 million miles of Earth are called near-Earth objects, or NEOs.



An artist's rendering of a large asteroid near Earth

Asteroid unlikely to hit Earth

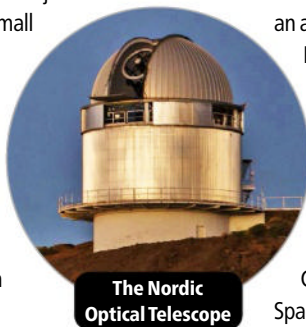
Earth had a close brush with a space object. In December, NASA (the US space agency) and the European Space Agency announced that they were carefully tracking an asteroid that had the potential to hit our planet in the year 2032. Now, however, NASA has said the risk of the space rock, called 2024 YR4, striking Earth is nearly zero.

Asteroids are irregularly shaped objects that orbit the Sun and can be as small as a pebble or as big as several miles across. They are made up of ancient materials left over from when our solar system was born billions of years ago, including rock and sometimes metal or clay. Small pieces of asteroids that hit Earth are known as meteorites (see box at right). Scientists keep an eye on asteroids, big or small, so they can prepare in advance if they believe that one is headed toward Earth.

On December 27, the Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) telescope in Chile first spotted 2024 YR4. It was between 130 and 300 feet wide. Astronomers (scientists who study stars, planets, and objects in space) began tracking the asteroid and determined that it had more than a 1% chance of smashing into Earth.

They thought it could hit a big city like Mumbai in India or Lagos in Nigeria.

Scientists also knew, however, that their predictions would change as more data was collected, which is normal. Sure enough, the threat from 2024 YR4 rose and then sharply fell over several weeks. On February 18, it hit 3.1%, which was the highest likelihood ever recorded of an asteroid of its size hitting Earth. By February 24, it was down to .004%.



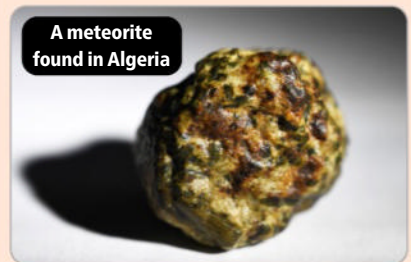
The Nordic Optical Telescope

Astronomers will continue to monitor the asteroid from observatories around the world, including the Lowell Discovery Telescope in Arizona and the Nordic Optical Telescope in the Canary Islands. The James Webb Space Telescope will zoom in on it as well. Experts think there is a 1.7% chance 2024 YR4 could crash into the Moon and create a crater, but that could change too.

"This shouldn't be a cause for alarm," Colin Snodgrass, an astronomer at the University of Edinburgh in the UK, told *The Guardian*. "It is a sign that our technology is improving and we are doing better at discovering asteroids." The asteroid will disappear from our view by the end of April and pass Earth again in 2028 and 2032.

What is a meteorite?

A meteorite found in Algeria



When you see a shooting star, you're actually watching a piece of space rock burn up in Earth's atmosphere. Those pieces, which have broken off from asteroids or comets in space, are called meteors. When many meteors burn up at the same time, that's a meteor shower.

Meteors that survive the trip through the atmosphere and land on Earth are called meteorites. They're between the size of a pebble and a human fist. NASA estimates that more than 50,000 meteorites have been found on Earth, and about 99.8% of them came from asteroids. Meteorites can be hard to distinguish from Earth rocks, but they often have a shiny exterior created by the extreme heat in our atmosphere. About 60 meteorites have come from Mars, and 80 have come from the Moon.



New method to treat mild peanut allergies

In a new study, children with mild peanut allergies overcame the condition by eating small amounts of peanut butter, then gradually increasing the amount over time. The testing took place in a clinical setting and was supervised by a doctor in case the child had a reaction.

The study focused on children ages 4 to 14 who had a peanut allergy but could tolerate at least half a peanut without having a reaction. (The method used in the study will not work for children with a severe peanut allergy.)

At first, the kids ate one eighth of a teaspoon of peanut butter every day. Every eight weeks for about 18 months, the dose of peanut butter (or another food containing peanuts) was increased.

Eventually, nearly all the children who followed the treatment could eat up to nine grams of peanut protein without an allergic reaction. They were considered to have developed a long-term tolerance to peanuts.

Follow-up research will confirm whether the peanut tolerance will continue over time.

The treatment “has the potential to be a game changer for families and children,” Scott Sicherer, an allergist and lead author of the study, told NBC News. Sicherer and his colleagues hope a similar approach could be used to help children with other food allergies. Of course, experts caution, any food challenge should be undertaken only under an allergist’s supervision.

FOOD FACT

Peanuts are not actually a nut—they’re technically a legume, which means they are related to beans, lentils, and soy.



About 6.2 million people in the US are allergic to peanuts.



Some of the tiny beads

Largest stash of ancient beads found

More than 270,000 delicate beads were found in a 5,000-year-old tomb in Spain that contained the remains of 20 people, including 15 women. It is the largest collection of beads ever found and signifies the important place the women held in their society.

Scientists carefully cleaned each of the beads, most of which were made out of scallop shells. Some were made of bone and stone. They estimated that the beads would

have taken several workers about seven months to make by hand.

The scientists think the beads were used to decorate ceremonial dresses and skirts, which were also adorned with ivory and amber pendants. They said the outfits would have been an impressive sight that glimmered in the sunlight and made the women look powerful. This points to the women’s high status in the community, possibly as religious or political leaders.



A camping stove that stays lit



The Ulti Stove

Cold-weather campers have a new option for boiling snow for hot chocolate and melting marshmallows for s’mores. The Primus Ulti Stove system uses infrared heat instead of an open flame and stays lit in wind, snow, and rain. Infrared radiation uses

electromagnetic waves to heat objects, while regular heating processes warm up the air.

The Ulti Stove comes with an aluminum pot and lid and attaches directly to a fuel source. When the meal is over, the stove packs up into a compact size that can easily fit into a backpack.



Photos of the week



Water world

Free divers hold their breath under a boat in Malaysia in this photo taken by Wan Yong Chong.



Field of gold

Vlatko Rafeski snapped this image of sunflowers in North Macedonia.



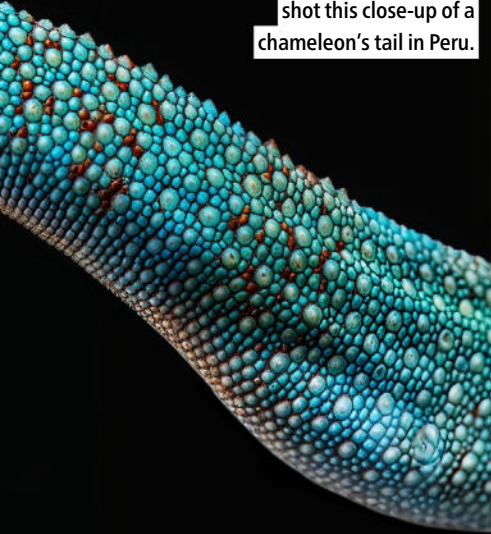
WAN YONG CHONG; CARLOS ESPINOSA; KIYOSHI HIJIKI; VLATKO RAFESKI; LOR BERMAN; FERNÁNDEZ; PEDRO JARQUE; KREBS

Photos of the week



Round it goes

Pedro Jarque Krebs shot this close-up of a chameleon's tail in Peru.



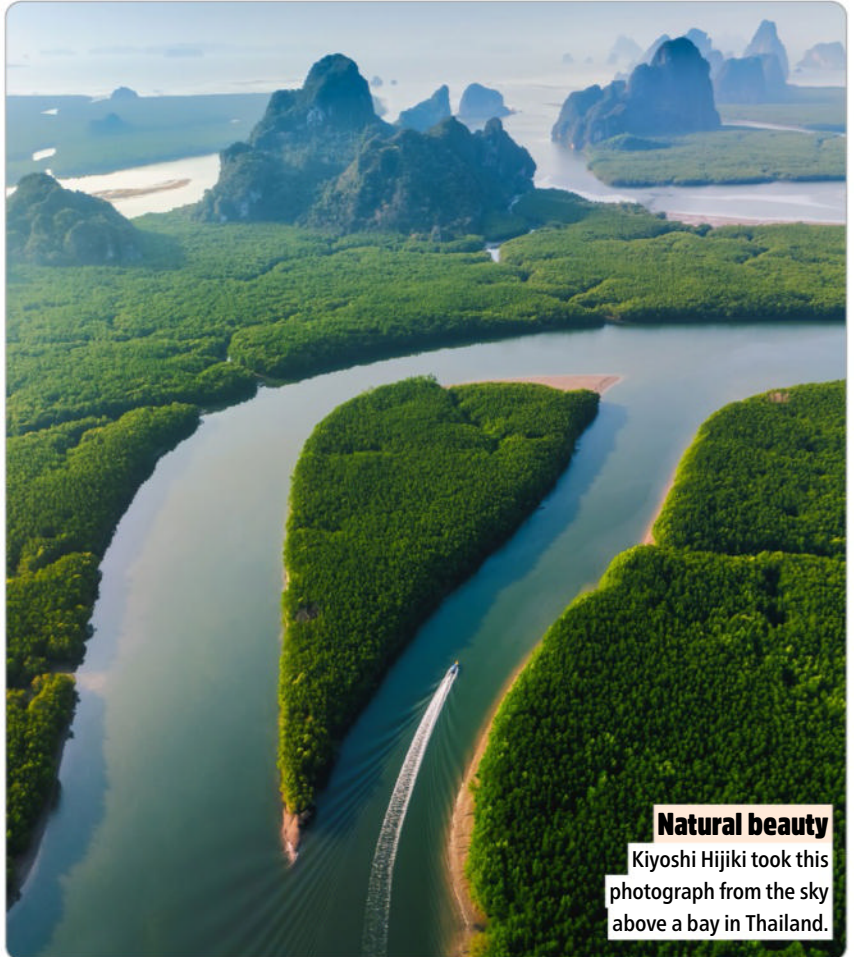
Baby face

This portrait of an infant monkey in Bali was taken by Carlos Espinosa.



Bright night

In Argentina, Lior Berman Fernández captured this shot of a full moon.



Natural beauty

Kiyoshi Hijiki took this photograph from the sky above a bay in Thailand.



Sports

HOT SHOTS

The Cleveland Cavaliers are now the second NBA team ever to have three 12-game winning streaks in one season.



Darius Garland of the Cleveland Cavaliers (left) and Haywood Highsmith of the Miami Heat

Unrivaled playoffs set



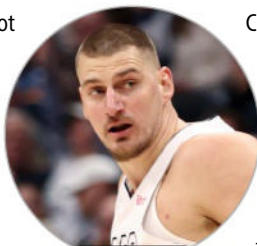
The regular season of the new women's 3-on-3 basketball league, Unrivaled, ended on March 10. The Lunar Owls finished in first with a 13–1 record. They will be joined in the playoffs by the Rose, Laces, and Vinyl. The championship game is scheduled for March 17.

A week of big moments in the NBA

The end of the NBA (National Basketball Association) regular season is less than a month away, and the Cleveland Cavaliers, the top team in the Eastern Conference, have become the first team to clinch a spot in the postseason playoffs. On March 5, they beat the Miami Heat, 112–107, in what was their 12th straight victory. This will be Cleveland's third consecutive appearance in the NBA postseason.

The Cavs' victory was part of a week filled with big accomplishments. On March 4, Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James became the first player in NBA history to surpass 50,000 career points. He reached the milestone during

his team's 136–115 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans. James has had a strong season and helped the Lakers maintain a top spot in the Western Conference, where the Oklahoma City Thunder are in first place.



Nikola Jokic

Another player who had a historic game was Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic. During his team's 149–141 overtime win over the Phoenix Suns on March 7, he recorded the first 30–20–20 triple-double in NBA history. He finished with 31 points, 21 rebounds, and 22 assists.

The next day featured a major matchup as the Boston Celtics, the defending NBA champions, hosted the Lakers at home. The Celtics entered the

contest in second place in the East and beat the Lakers, 111–101, ending that team's eight-game winning streak. Forward-guard Jayson Tatum led the Celtics with 40 points, and James contributed significantly to the Lakers' game before exiting the competition with a groin injury. He is expected to be sidelined for one to two weeks.

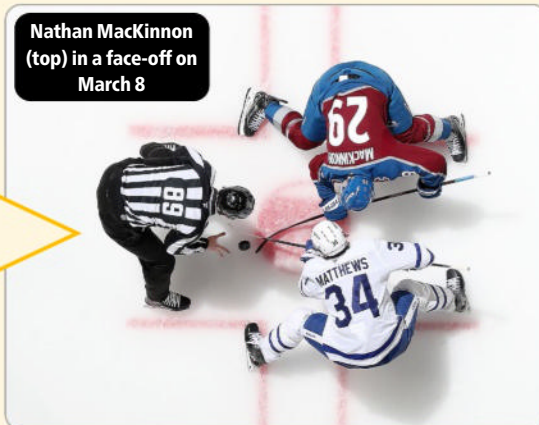
Three days earlier, the Celtics defeated the Portland Trail Blazers, 128–118, with a record-breaking performance. In that game, Celtics guards Payton Pritchard and Derrick White combined for 84 points, setting a franchise record for the most points scored by a duo in a single game. It was also the first time two Celtics players have scored 40 points in the same game in franchise history. The pair combined to make 19 three-pointers.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

On March 8, Nathan MacKinnon of the Colorado Avalanche became the first NHL player this season to reach 100 points (sum of goals and assists). He did it by scoring a goal in his team's 7–4 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs. Two days later, in a 3–0 win over the Chicago Blackhawks, he earned his 1,000th career point with a third-period assist. He is the third player in Avalanche history to rack up that many points.

Nathan MacKinnon (top) in a face-off on March 8



COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Drake University beat Bradley University, 63–48, on March 9 to win the Missouri Valley Conference title and a spot in the NCAA tournament. Four of Drake's five starters this season came from a lower division of college hoops.

SOCCER

The Washington Spirit beat the Orlando Pride on penalties to win the NWSL Challenge Cup on March 7. Last fall, the Spirit lost to the Pride in the NWSL's 2024 championship match.



DRIVE TO SUCCEED

In 1949, Sara Christian became the first woman to drive in a NASCAR race.



Katherine Legge

Historic day for women in NASCAR

On March 9, a woman raced in the NASCAR (National Association for Stock Car Racing) Cup Series, the top stock car series in the US, for the first time since 2018. Katherine Legge, who is British, drove for Live Fast Motorsports in the Shriners Childrens 500 at Phoenix Raceway in Avondale, Arizona. She is the 17th woman to ever compete in a NASCAR Cup Series race. The last one was American Danica Patrick.

Legge, age 44, has competed in many types of auto racing series. In 2023, she made history by setting the fastest qualifying time by a woman at the Indianapolis 500, a top event for open-wheel cars. She called being in the NASCAR Cup Series “a dream come true” and said racing stock cars “has been an incredibly fun and new challenge that’s given me a renewed sense of vigor for this sport.”

There were 37 drivers at the start of the 312-mile race, which takes 312 laps to complete. Legge began in the 37th position. She maintained competitive lap times and climbed up to 28th place at one point. With just under 100 laps to go, she was involved in a crash with another driver. She was not seriously injured, but her car was too damaged to continue. As a result, Legge finished in 30th place, ahead of seven drivers who were eliminated from the race after an earlier crash.

The race concluded with a thrilling finish as Christopher Bell of Joe Gibbs Racing beat his teammate Denny Hamlin by 0.049 seconds. It was Bell’s third consecutive victory in this season’s series and the second-closest race in Phoenix Raceway history.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach’s Name: **Scott Loughner**

Sport: **Baseball**

“Coach Scott is very inspirational. Whenever the team is down, he says now is our time to shine. When I wasn’t sure if I wanted to continue baseball, he brought the game back to life for me. He practices with us every day and takes his teams to championships. What I love most is that he always picks the new kids and makes them great athletes. He’s hard on us, but it’s because he wants us to thrive. If I could, I’d have him as a coach every season I play!” Derek, 11, California



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach’s name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



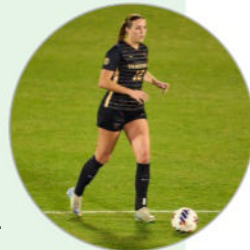
Hannah McLaughlin

AGE: 21 SPORT: SOCCER

TEAM: VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Early years I started playing soccer at a really young age. I played other sports, but it was my favorite and also the one I excelled at the most, so I continued to play. When I got into club soccer, my team was incredible. We had a great group of girls and a great group of families. I love the people aspect of soccer. I think that’s what makes it so fun.

Top teammate My sister plays soccer with me at Vanderbilt. It’s awesome. We’ve always had sibling rivalry, but that makes us both better, so I appreciate it.



Role model When I was young, I looked up to Carli Lloyd. She was a midfielder, and I was a midfielder. I loved watching her play for the US in the World Cup and the Olympics and also seeing the way she led the team.

Keeping cool Before a big game, it helps me to hang out with friends in the locker room, listen to music, and have fun. On the field, I rely on my teammates and they help me out. If I make a mistake, it’s OK. Every pass doesn’t define me. Even away from soccer, I’ve learned to lean on my teammates. You can’t do everything on your own.

Major match In the NCAA tournament this past season, our team beat FSU, who were the reigning national champions and expected to win it all. We’ll never forget it. One of my goals is to win a Southeastern Conference championship. Number two is to win a national title. That’s the dream.

Wise words Sports are supposed to be fun. If you get to a point where you’re not having fun, it’s much harder to play with passion.



MAGICAL MUSIC

"Waiting on a Wish," a new song from *Snow White*, is now streaming on Spotify and other platforms.



Snow White

Snow White brought to life

A live-action remake of Disney's animated musical brings a modern twist to the classic fairy tale.

When Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* was released in 1937, it was the first-ever full-length animated film. More than 85 years later, Disney has made a live-action musical adaptation of that film for a new generation. It will be released in theaters on March 21.

The *Snow White* story most people know was believed to come from German folklore. It follows a princess whose jealous stepmother, the Evil Queen, orders her death. Snow White

escapes and finds shelter with seven dwarf miners. In the new film, Rachel Zegler (*West Side Story*) is Snow White, and Gal Gadot (*Wonder Woman*) is the queen. The music includes songs from the first film plus new ones by Benj Pasek and

Justin Paul, award-winning composers who wrote the songs for *The Greatest Showman* and other musicals.

Zegler is the first Latina actress to play Snow White on screen. She grew up watching the 1997 version of *Cinderella* starring Brandy Norwood, who is Black, and told *Variety* that seeing

diverse characters is important to her. Traditionally, Snow White's name came from her skin tone, but Zegler said her film is based on a story in which Snow White survived a snowstorm as a baby and got her name "to remind her of her resilience."

Mandy Walker, the cinematographer (person in charge of cameras and lighting) on the new film, told *The Week Junior* that during planning, she looked at the animated version for "inspiration and reference." She called the modern take "a beautiful reimagining of the classic film with messages of bravery, goodness, friendship, and honor that are important to life."



Mandy Walker

3 live-action fairy tales

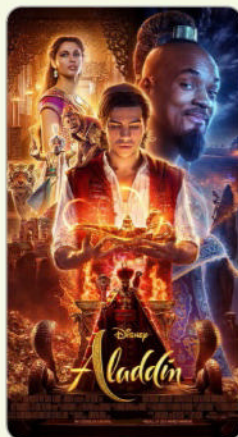
Beauty and the Beast

Harry Potter star Emma Watson played Belle in the 2017 adaptation of the 1991 animated film. She was praised for portraying her character as more independent.



Aladdin

In this 2019 remake of the animated film from 1992, Will Smith took on the iconic Genie role. One big difference between the films was the addition of the character Dalia, Princess Jasmine's handmaiden and helpful best friend.



The Little Mermaid

Halle Bailey was the first Black actress to portray mermaid Ariel on screen. The 2023 film had three songs, co-written by *Hamilton*'s Lin-Manuel Miranda, that weren't in the animated movie from 1989.

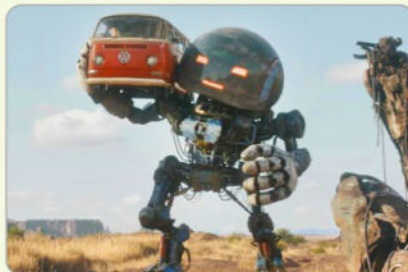




Avatar: The Last Airbender



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



The Electric State (Netflix)

This new sci-fi film is set in an alternate version of the 1990s after a robot uprising. It follows orphaned teen Michelle as she travels to find her brother alongside a sweet robot, a rebellious guide, and his robot sidekick. She uncovers dark secrets along the way. It is rated PG-13.



Kiff (Disney+)

The main characters in this series are optimistic squirrel Kiff and her laid-back bunny best friend, Barry. They navigate relationships, life in their quirky community, and school drama. In the new second season, their challenges include sneaking into movies and running for class president.



Celtics City (Max) Mondays at 9 p.m. ET

Learn about the history of the Boston Celtics, the NBA's most successful franchise. Over nine parts, this documentary explores the team's founding, fierce rivalries, and unforgettable moments. It features footage that's never been seen before and interviews with current and former players.

New Avatar sequel series announced

This year is the 20th anniversary of the popular Nickelodeon animated series *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. The network will honor the milestone with new online content, a Roblox game, a digital album, and immersive experiences at this summer's Comic-Con in San Diego, California. In more exciting news for fans, Nickelodeon announced that Michael DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko, the co-creators of the original show, are making a new series, *Avatar: Seven Havens*.

The *Avatar* world has four nations related to the universe's four elements: Earth, Air, Fire, and Water. *The Last Airbender*'s main character is Aang, an Airbender who discovers he is a powerful Avatar who can control all four elements. A second series, *The Legend of Korra*, came out in 2012. It is set 70 years later and has a female Avatar, Korra, a Waterbender by birth.

Seven Havens takes place after *Korra*, and the Avatar will be a female Earthbender. In the story, there has been a cataclysm (a large-scale and violent event in nature), and because of the destruction, not everyone thinks she is a hero. According to Nickelodeon, the Avatar will have "human and spirit enemies" and will team up with her long-lost twin to "uncover their mysterious origins and save the last strongholds collapse."

In the announcement about the series, DiMartino and Konietzko said, "This new incarnation of the Avatarverse is full of fantasy, mystery, and a whole new cast of amazing characters. Get ready to take another epic and emotional adventure!" There will be 26 episodes of the show, which will come in two parts: Book 1 and Book 2. There is no release date yet.

COMING SOON

An animated *Avatar* film, currently untitled, is set to be released in theaters on January 30, 2026.



READER RECOMMENDS



Seal Team (TV-Y7) Netflix

"This is a movie about a seal named Quinn, who lost his brother to ruthless sharks. He teams up with a squad of misfit seals to fight against the sharks and make the sea safe again. With intense training and the discovery of their special skills, the seals work toward having a real chance at victory. We like this movie because the seals are mysterious, cunning, and 'malarious'—a word we made up that means suspicious, scheming, and plotting, in a humorous way. It is funny, adventurous, and keeps you on the edge of your seat with its many twists and turns." Dylan, 13, and Adam, 10, Pennsylvania

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



On screen

DID YOU KNOW?

The Charleston Museum in South Carolina, which was founded in 1773, is known as "America's First Museum."



Two Point Museum

Design and run your own museum

Two Point Museum is a new business simulation game. It was recently released for the PlayStation 5, Xbox systems, and PC. It is the third game in a series that includes Two Point Campus, which puts gamers in charge of a school environment, and Two Point Hospital.

The goal of the new game is to build a world-class museum from scratch. Details that players have to think about include how the museum is designed and what kind of exhibits it will feature. There are also tasks related to day-to-day management, including hiring employees, stocking gift shops, and placing exhibits in good spots. Keeping track of the museum's budget is key, and new opportunities open up as earnings increase.

The game has six different themes—Prehistoric, Botany, Marine Life, Spectral, Science, and Space—and each has its

own museum and story. For example, the science museum is located on a mysterious wasteland, while the marine life museum is set in a place called Passwater Cove. There is also a haunted house museum called the Wailon Lodge, where there are daily supernatural occurrences.

To find items to exhibit, you have to send teams out on expeditions. They use maps to look for artifacts such as aliens, ghosts, and giant dinosaur skeletons with funny names like Smorgasbordasaurus. You can choose to display only artifacts that are related to your museum's theme or mix them up, although visitors may become unhappy if the assortment gets confusing.

Just like at real-life museums, there are two important keys you can't forget about in your planning: preventing thieves from stealing artifacts and making exhibits fun for kids.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

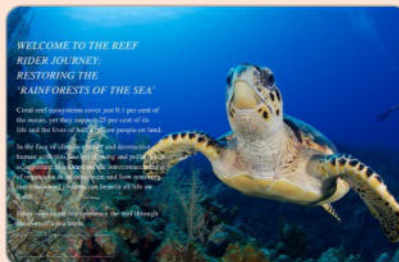
SPORTS ARE FUN!

Major podcast platforms

This new podcast—hosted by Olympic gold medalist and soccer star Kelley O'Hara and sports journalist Greydy Diaz—covers the biggest news in the world of women's sports. Each week, they sit down for conversations with top athletes, such as basketball star Napheesa Collier.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



REEF RIDER JOURNEY

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ReefRider

The United Nations Environment Program created this interactive site, which allows you to explore the ocean from the perspective of a sea turtle. As you make choices for the animal, like whether or not to avoid a shark, you'll learn about the species as well as threats to coral reefs.



GAME OF THE WEEK

TOCA BOCA WORLD

Apple App Store, Google Play

Express your creativity with this award-winning interactive game that lets you build spaces, decorate them, and tell stories. You can run a dog daycare center, direct a sitcom, or make up new characters and dress them however you want. There are many settings and props to choose from.



Book club



BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Doomsday Vault

By Thomas Wheeler

(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

The first book in the new Everwhen School of Time Travel series begins with a bang. It's the year 1878, and 12-year-old Bertie is invited to attend a secret time-travel school after he accidentally creates a black hole in his bedroom. His classmates are from other time periods. For example, Amelia is the sister of the famous painter Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519), and Zoe is a math genius from 2025. At first, the students have a difficult time adjusting. But as they start to settle in, the school's headmaster mysteriously vanishes, putting the time stream in danger of cracking and the entire world at risk. A message appears on the wall saying the students have 48 hours to find and open the hidden Doomsday Vault on campus. Bertie has a theory about where the vault could be and leads the search. With the clock ticking, will the friends be able to save their professor and their school? Diary entries, recipes, and homework excuses are sprinkled throughout the pages, adding an extra layer of fun. The book offers all the intrigue of the Spy School series with a sci-fi twist.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Thomas Wheeler

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

What inspired this book?

My dad was a bit of a science enthusiast. When I was young, he would talk about quantum physics and I would listen and absorb the things he said.

Did you enjoy writing about time travel?

Honestly, I was worried about doing it. But I gave myself permission to go for it and let my imagination spill. I wanted the reader to have a lot of fun.

Which character do you relate to most?

Bertie, because he's in this place he loves but has to find a way to realize he belongs and has something valuable to offer. I've been through that.

How do you spend your free time?

I like to play Dungeons & Dragons with my friends.

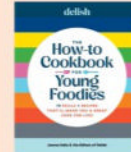
Favorite time and place?

Medieval Europe



4 books to help you learn fun skills

These titles teach you how to perform a magic trick, wrap a gift, and more.



Delish: The How-To Cookbook for Young Foodies

By Joanna Saltz and the editors of Delish

(Hearst Home Kids)

With this beginner-friendly book, you can master cooking and baking skills like dicing vegetables and kneading dough. It also includes 50 recipes, like Cucumber Sushi, to help you practice what you learn. *Ages 8 and up*



The Handbook of Forgotten Skills

By Elaine Batiste and Natalie Crowley, illustrated by Chris Duriez (Magic Cat Publishing)

If you aren't sure how to sew a button, fix a flat bicycle tire, or wrap a present, this book can help. It contains step-by-step instructions for 30 skills that are starting to become "lost arts" because they aren't commonly practiced. Some skills can help the environment. *Ages 8 and up*



The Home Edit for Teens

By Clea Shearer and Joanna Teplin

(Clarkson Potter)

Organizing your belongings is a skill, and this book is packed with inspiring tips and photos. Discover simple ways to keep your personal areas clean, from a bedroom closet to a school locker. A template for making checklists can help you stay on track. *Ages 12 and up*



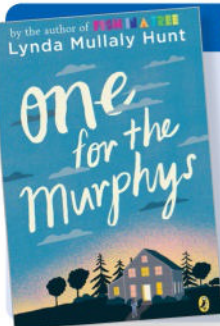
How to Fool Your Parents

By David Kwong, illustrated by Michael Korfhage

(HarperCollins)

This playful book teaches you how to perform 25 magic tricks. Some tricks involve cards, while others use secret codes to wow your audience. The instructions include a list of what you'll need to perform each trick and explain the "secret" behind the magic. *Ages 9 and up*

READER RECOMMENDS



One for the Murphys

By Lynda Mullaly Hunt

"Carley Connors has a good life until she experiences a big betrayal, which lands her in foster care. At first, she doesn't like living with the Murphys, the family she is placed with. Throughout the story, Carley begins to change her mind, but when she finally believes she could become part of this perfect family, news from her mother arrives. This story will stay with readers after they finish it." *Tori, 10, Colorado*

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



How to...



WOW!
There are about 1.5 billion grandparents worldwide, and the number is projected to increase to 2.1 billion by 2050.

Discover your family history

Feel closer to family—and learn more about who you are—by looking at the past.

Your family history is the story of the people in your family who came before you. That includes your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Knowing your family history can help you feel more connected to your family, and research suggests it also gives you a stronger sense of identity and well-being. Here's how you can start learning about your ancestry.

Talk to your family

Start by asking relatives if you can speak with them about your family's history. You can ask them if you can record them on audio or video, or you can take written notes. To get the conversation going, ask a few questions about their life growing up (see the ideas in the box at right). You can also ask them to name some of the biggest world events or inventions of their lifetime and what they remember about how those developments affected your family.

Look at old photos together

Peeking at old photo albums or framed photos can unlock memories and conversations. Ask relatives if they have any old photos they can

share with you. Look at them together, and ask them to share what they remember about the day the photo was taken, such as what the occasion was and who was there. Another idea is to look at old recipe cards, which can bring forth memories about cooking and baking traditions. You might even want to re-create some family recipes together.

Build a family tree

Ask a parent or grandparent to help you fill out a family tree. At the bottom of the tree will be you and any siblings. Above you will be your parents, and above them, their parents (your grandparents). See how far back you can go in your family tree, making branches for your great- or even great-great grandparents. Add aunts and uncles and their children as well.

Keep memories safe

You can make a memory box or a scrapbook that includes photos of your family, your family tree, and what you've learned about your history. Later, you can look back on the history you've collected and save it for future generations to enjoy.



Talk about family photos.

Interview questions



Find out more about a family member's past by trying these conversation starters.

- When you were a child, what was your favorite toy or game?
- Did you have or want any pets?
- What was your favorite food?
- What subject did you like best in school?
- What did you enjoy doing most when you were my age?
- Where did you live as a child?
- What's the funniest family story you can remember?
- Who were the oldest family members you can recall? What do you remember about them?



SOUP IS SERVED

The largest bowl of soup ever made held more than 8,000 gallons and was prepared by 45 chefs.



WARNING!

Always ask an adult's permission before using a knife or the stove.

Make easy, tasty chicken noodle soup

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 1 large carrot, sliced
- 1 large stalk celery, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, grated
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 8 cups chicken broth
- ½ cup filini or orzo pasta
- 3 cups rotisserie chicken, shredded
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh dill

Instructions

1. Heat oil in a large pot over medium heat.
2. Add the onion, carrots, and celery and cook until the vegetables are softened, about 4 minutes.
3. Add the garlic, salt, and pepper and cook 1 minute.
4. Pour in the broth and bring to a boil.
5. Add the pasta to the broth mixture and cook until al dente (firm), according to the package directions.
6. Reduce the heat to a simmer and stir in the chicken. Heat until warmed through, about 3 minutes. Stir in the lemon juice and chopped dill. Serve hot. Makes 6–8 servings.

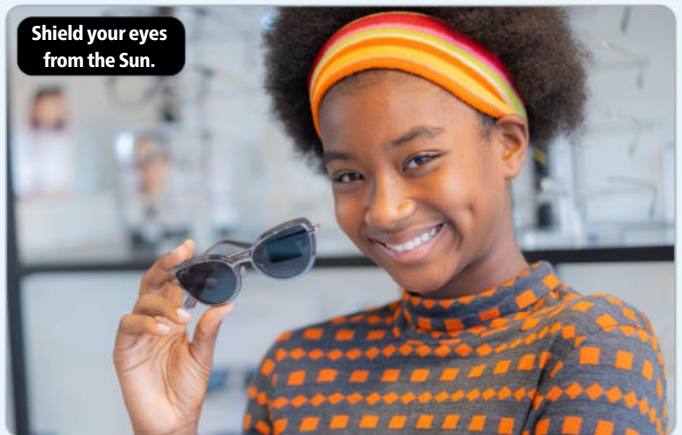


LIFE HACK

PROTECT YOUR EYESIGHT

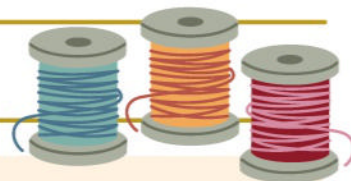
It's important to take care of your eye health—your eyes are still developing through childhood and adolescence, and preventing problems now will protect your vision in the long run. There are several steps you can take to protect your eyes. First, take frequent breaks from screens, and try to get outside for at least two hours every day. Get enough sleep, which allows your eyes to rest and recover from the day's activities. Most eye injuries can be prevented with protective eyewear. If you play sports, wear protective eyewear to avoid injuries. Also protect your eyes from the harmful effects of the Sun's rays with sunglasses that have 100% UV protection.

Shield your eyes from the Sun.





Puzzles



Word search

Can you find all these words associated with sewing? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

ALTERATIONS

BIAS
BOBBIN
CHALK
CUT
DART
FASHION
HEMLINE
IRON
KNOT
MATERIAL
MEND
NEEDLE
PATTERN
PINCUSHION
PLEAT
POCKETS
SCISSORS
SEAM
SNAPS
SPOOL
STITCH

SWATCH

TAILOR
TAPE MEASURE
THIMBLE

THREAD

TRIM
VELCRO
YARDSTICK

S S
N R
S T I T C H T O F A S H I O N
L S E A M H T R T E S N A P S R N O
O T E N E A C A R A N O G C S E I P
O L R E E L B M I H T I U O I P B L
P E U A E K M A M L D T L E C N B E
S E S V D O A D M S L O
E A S R N H E A B
E E C R N H N
M T H R E A D
B D E T M A T E R I A L H T E T R E
A I P D E O U T O W F A O A D N T I
M A A L N O I H S U C N I P L P A A
K C I T S D R A Y R T K S S T E K C O P

OFF SIDES

Make three different five-letter words by using the letters given to fill in the blanks.

C D F H S T

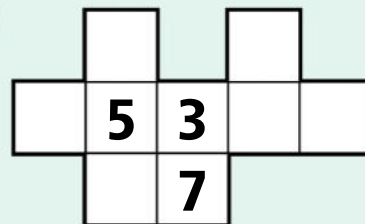
RES

RES

RES

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.



ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with words that rhyme with each other, like OUR and

POWER. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

- As soon as Benjamin hit the baseball, we _____ it was going straight _____ our upstairs window.
- The pediatric dentist's office had a digital picture frame displaying photos of every _____ who _____ for the camera after being treated.
- The book agent represented many unknown _____ fiction writers, but she predicted that some of her _____ would soon be considered _____ in the field.

Spot the difference

These two pictures showing figurines of the Seven Dwarfs from Disney's *Snow White* appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





It's the jacket
of our dreams.

A coat to snooze in—anywhere

The ZZZN Sleep Apparel System is a new high-tech coat designed to let its wearer doze off in comfort—even while sitting outside in the cold. The designers were inspired by traditional Japanese winter sleepwear, but they have added some modern gadgets. The coat has a built-in pillow, headphones to play relaxing tunes, and a device that monitors the wearer's heart rate, stress levels, and sleep cycles. Lights in its headpiece turn red to resemble a sunset, then blue when it's time to wake up.



Paws aboard!

Cat gets an unlimited rail pass

An adventurous cat named Tilly is earning travel perks and a globe-trotting reputation. Owner Michael Hardy attached an information tag and tracking device to 2-year-old Tilly's collar because the wayfaring feline, who lives in the UK, has been seen inside local businesses, at a school, and on the bus. Recently, staff at a ticket office called to tell Hardy that Tilly had hopped on a train and traveled nearly 18 miles to London. Now the train company has gifted the cat her own rail pass, offering free rides "for all of her nine lives."



More than two
tons of fun

Melting a cheese fondue record

A French company has officially cooked up the world's largest cheese fondue. To make the melty dip, chefs filled a gigantic copper cauldron with 40 wheels of comté cheese, wine, 121 pounds of comstarch, 4.4 pounds of garlic, and 3.3 pounds of white pepper. They heated it and blended everything with a giant mixer so the fondue would be "soft and creamy," according to a Juraflor cheese company spokesperson. Weighing in at 4,800 pounds, the colossal cheesy dish served more than 5,000 people.

Real or
fake?

Were they rolling
in the aisles?



Shoppers lace up their skates

Last month, customers at a supermarket in the UK were given roller skates to speed up their shopping trip. During the two-day trial, shoppers received a set of skates and a basket, and fitness instructor Joe Wicks was on hand to show them how to skate and snatch up bargains at the same time. The supermarket says "Skate Saturdays" could soon be introduced to speed shoppers along and stop supermarkets from becoming overcrowded on the busiest day of the week. Is this real, or are we skating around the truth?*

*Faked! The skaters were actually at a supermarket-themed roller disco at its "rollback" discounts on product prices. The supermarket Asda hosted the special event to promote a skating rink.



Your turn

Editor's note

Until the 1920s, most people believed the Milky Way was the only galaxy in the universe. But then, on December 30, 1924, a US astronomer named Edwin Hubble announced a dramatic discovery. Looking through a 100-inch telescope, he saw bright lights that he concluded were not distant stars or gas clouds, as many people thought, but a separate galaxy. His finding was called "junk science" at first—but within 10 years, it was widely accepted among scientists that the Milky Way is one galaxy among millions. Hubble never won a Nobel Prize for his work because astronomers were not eligible at that time. (That has since changed.) In 1990, however, the Hubble Space Telescope was named after him (p4). This year NASA is celebrating the 35th anniversary of the telescope's launch into orbit. It has made powerful observations that teach us about the universe—as Edwin Hubble did a century ago.



Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

Writing to inspire others

“I self-published three children's books with my parents: *All Emotions Matter*, *All Vowels Matter*, and *All Shapes Matter*. They are part of a series called *What Matters to You?* I'm proud that my books have helped children grasp complex topics like emotions from an early age. I have received positive feedback from teachers, grandparents, parents, and children about the books. My hope is to inspire and encourage all young readers of *The Week Junior* to take the next step and publish their own stories. I did it, and so can you!”



Chakra, 13, New Jersey

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
Where in the world does yesterday come after today?
The dictionary

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



National Association for Down Syndrome

This organization helps people with Down syndrome lead fulfilling lives. About 5,700 children are born in the US each year with the condition, which affects development. The group provides resources for learning language and math skills and helps people with Down syndrome set and achieve goals.

Find out more at nads.org.



Your hopes for the nation

Claire, 10, from Michigan, loves that in America people have the freedom to be themselves. She hopes the US reduces its carbon emissions and that people are kind to one another. As a reader of *The Week Junior*, you may be forming opinions about your hopes and dreams for America. If so, we want to hear them! Go to kids.theweekjunior.com/ activities to download a form like the one shown at right. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the submissions we receive on this page in future issues.

First name: Claire Age 10 State Michigan

What do you love most about America and why?
What I love most about America is the fact that people have freedom to be their selves. I love this because you can always be yourself and make the choices you want.

If you could describe America in three words, which words would you choose?
I would chose diverse, beautiful, and united.

What are some of the hopes you have for our country in 2025 and in the future?
Better security of our schools, less carbon emissions and more kindness.

Draw a picture of what America looks like to you.

THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



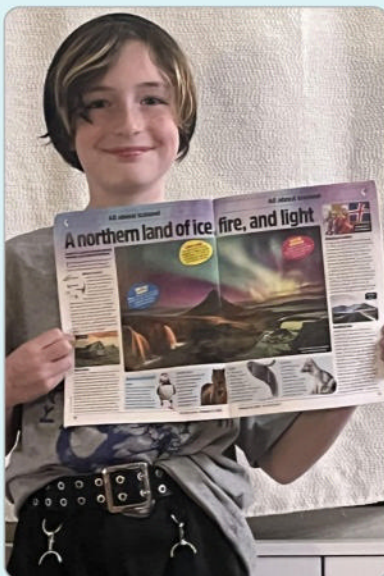
YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I love reading *The Week Junior* with my dog, Beatrice." **Nova, 9, Minnesota**

"*The Week Junior's* story on Iceland brought back very good memories of my trip there. Thank you!" **Nova, 11, California**



"I made the veggie sweet potato boats for dinner and found a new love for sweet potatoes!" **Allie, 9, Colorado**



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Jacob Fry**

School: **Bethesda Elementary School**

"Mr. Fry is the best music teacher ever! He started a special group last year that sings barbershop songs. He gives up his lunch periods every day to help us learn to sing harmony. Mr. Fry gives us points if we're respectful and kind. If we get enough points, he lets us throw a party. He is also the school chorus director and so many kids joined that we had to make two separate choirs. I can't imagine music class without him."

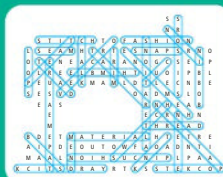
Ruth, 11, Maryland

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!

Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.



Puzzle answers (from page 26)



Off sides

crest
dress
fresh

Fill in the blanks

1. knew, through
2. child, smiled
3. science, clients, giants

Word search

Unused letters: Stone Age people made needles and thread out of animal parts.

	8		6	
2	5	3	1	4
	9	7		



Quiz answers (from page 30) 1 c) 331.9 million 2 Spain 3 False. It will be a female Earthbender. 4 a) Atlanta Falcons 5 b) 35th 6 False. The songs are made up of various sounds. 7 a) *Bits of Life* 8 Wailon Lodge 9 True 10 The Flame of Hope 11 b) Salamanders 12 True 13 17 14 b) 1878 15 c) 40

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 How many people visited a US National Park Service site in 2024, setting a record?

- a) 3.19 million b) 33.19 million
c) 331.9 million

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 A collection of more than 270,000 beads was recently found in a tomb in what country?

3 True or false? The main character in the upcoming *Avatar* series *Seven Havens* will be a male Waterbender.

True ☐ False ☐

4 Autumn Lockwood began her NFL coaching career with what team?

- a) Atlanta Falcons b) Philadelphia Eagles
c) Seattle Seahawks

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 NASA is celebrating which anniversary of the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope?

- a) 25th b) 35th c) 75th

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 True or false? All humpback whale songs consist of a single sound.

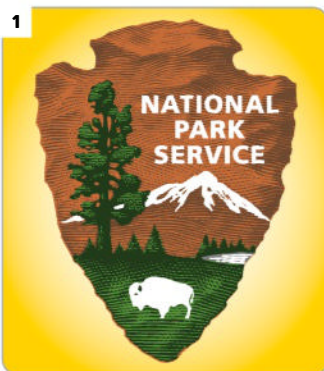
True ☐ False ☐

7 Actress Anna May Wong received her first film credit for appearing in what movie?

- a) *Bits of Life* b) *The Good Earth*
c) *The Red Lantern*

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 What is the name of the haunted house museum in the game *Two Point Museum*?



9 True or false? Scientists recently calculated that asteroid 2024 YR4 has a .004% chance of hitting Earth.

True ☐ False ☐

10 What is the flame that was lit at the Special Olympics opening ceremony called?

11 Researchers studied the toes of which creatures to find out why they have such a good grip?

- a) Iguanas
b) Salamanders
c) Toads

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 True or false? Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* was the first full-length animated film.

True ☐ False ☐

13 Katherine Legge is one of how many women to compete in a NASCAR Cup Series race?

14 In the book *The Doomsday Vault*, what year is it when Bertie gets invited to the Everwhen School of Time Travel?

- a) 1452
b) 1878
c) 2025

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 How many wheels of cheese were used to make the world's largest cheese fondue?

- a) 20 b) 30 c) 40

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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To celebrate National Reading Month, give a special gift of *The Week Junior* to a child in your life. With a wide range of news stories on a variety of topics, there is something in each issue to delight and inspire every child. And if you give a gift today, you will receive our special subscription offer just for National Reading Month!

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THE WEEK Junior



**MAJESTIC
MAMMAL**

Sable antelopes, found throughout southern Africa, resemble horses but have curved, ridged horns that can grow up to 4 feet long.